

Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01

SAM-01 SAJ-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /066 W

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R 280118Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8962
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3982

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CH, SN
SUBJECT: SINGAPORE FONMIN RAJARATNAM'S VISITS TO PRC AND JAPAN

REF: SINGAPORE 1013

SUMMARY: SINGAPORE EMBOFF PROVIDED US BACKGROUND ACCOUNT OF FONMIN RAJARATNAM'S VISIT TO JAPAN AND PRC. PLEASED WITH CANDOR AND CORDIALITY OF PEKING TALKS, RAJARATNAM TOLD CHINESE SINGAPORE WOULD BE LAST OF ASEAN COUNTRIES TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BUT PROPOSED EXPANDED ECONOMIC TIES IN INTERIM. CHINESE UNDERSTANDINGLY ACCEPTED AND PROMISED TO SEND TRADE MISSION AND FONMIN CHIAO HIMSELF TO SINGAPORE IN NEAR FUTURE. TOKYO CALLS WERE FOR COURTESY BRIEFING ON CHINA VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. FOR BACKGROUND EMBASSY SINGAPORE'S ASSESSMENT OF FONMIN RAJARATNAM'S VISITS TO PRC AND JAPAN, WE PASS ON INFO PROVIDED US BY SINGAPORE EMBASSY COUNSELOR MUSHASHID
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ALI: COURTESY VISIT TO JAPAN MARCH 20-25 ARRANGED TO BRIEF

PM MIKI AND FONMIN MIYAZAWA ON RAJARATNAM'S VISIT TO PRC. ALI TOLD US RAJARATNAM WAS DELIGHTED WITH CORDIAL AND FRANK MEETINGS IN PEKING WITH CHOU EN-LAI (WHO SEEMED VERY HEARTY) AND FONMIN CHIAO KUAN-HUA. CHINESE BROUGHT UP QUESTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND URGED THEIR EARLY ESTABLISHMENT. RAJARATNAM EXPLAINED CANDIDLY SINGAPORE'S POSITION AS SMALLEST OF ASEAN COUNTRIES AND SAID SINGAPORE WOULD HAVE TO BE LAST TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING. CHOU AND CHIAO EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING. WHEN RAJARATNAM SAID SINGAPORE MUST MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL MAJOR POWERS, CHINESE, IN THEME DOMINANT THROUGHOUT CONVERSATIONS, STRONGLY ADVISED SINGAPORE TO BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS ABOUT RELATIONS WITH SOVIET SUPERPOWER, THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THE TWO. RELATIONS WITH US AND JAPAN WERE WELCOMED, ALTHOUGH CHINESE SUGGESTED SLIGHT CAUTION IN RELATIONS WITH JAPAN. CHINESE EXPRESSED HOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH ALL SE ASIAN COUNTRIES, AT LEAST IMPLYING, ALI SAID, SUPPORT FOR ASEAN. TO ALI'S KNOWLEDGE, KHMER AND VIETNAM WERE NOT DISCUSSED.

2. SINGAPOREANS WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH CHINESE REACTION TO RAJARATNAM'S CALL FOR RAPID EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND PRC. HE EXPLAINED SINGAPORE'S UNIQUE ADVANTAGES AS AN ENTREPOT FOR PRC GOODS INTO SE ASIAN MARKETS AND SINGAPORE'S CAPABILITIES FOR PROVIDING TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED EXPORTS TO CHINA PRODUCED IN SINGAPORE OR FROM THIRD COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO ALI, CHINESE RESPONDED ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO THIS PROPOSAL AND PROMISED TO DISPATCH A TRADE MISSION TO SINGAPORE PROBABLY LATER THIS SPRING. FONMIN CHIAO ALSO AGREED TO VISIT SINGAPORE SOON.

3. REFLECTING RAJARATNAM'S ATTITUDE, ALI EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE THAT SINGAPORE'S RELATIONS WITH PEKING APPEAR ESTABLISHED JUST SHORT OF DIPLOMATIC TIES. ALI COMMENTED THAT THIS HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED EASILY BECAUSE SINGAPORE HAS HAD NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EITHER PEKING OR TAIPEI; THUS THERE ARE NO BARRIERS OF THE PAST TO OVERCOME. BY IMPLICATION, HE ALSO ASSUMED THAT SINGAPORE'S CURRENT TIES WITH TAIWAN NEED NOT BE JEOPARDIZED WHEN

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SINGAPORE AND PEKING EXCHANGE DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION.
SHOESMITH

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